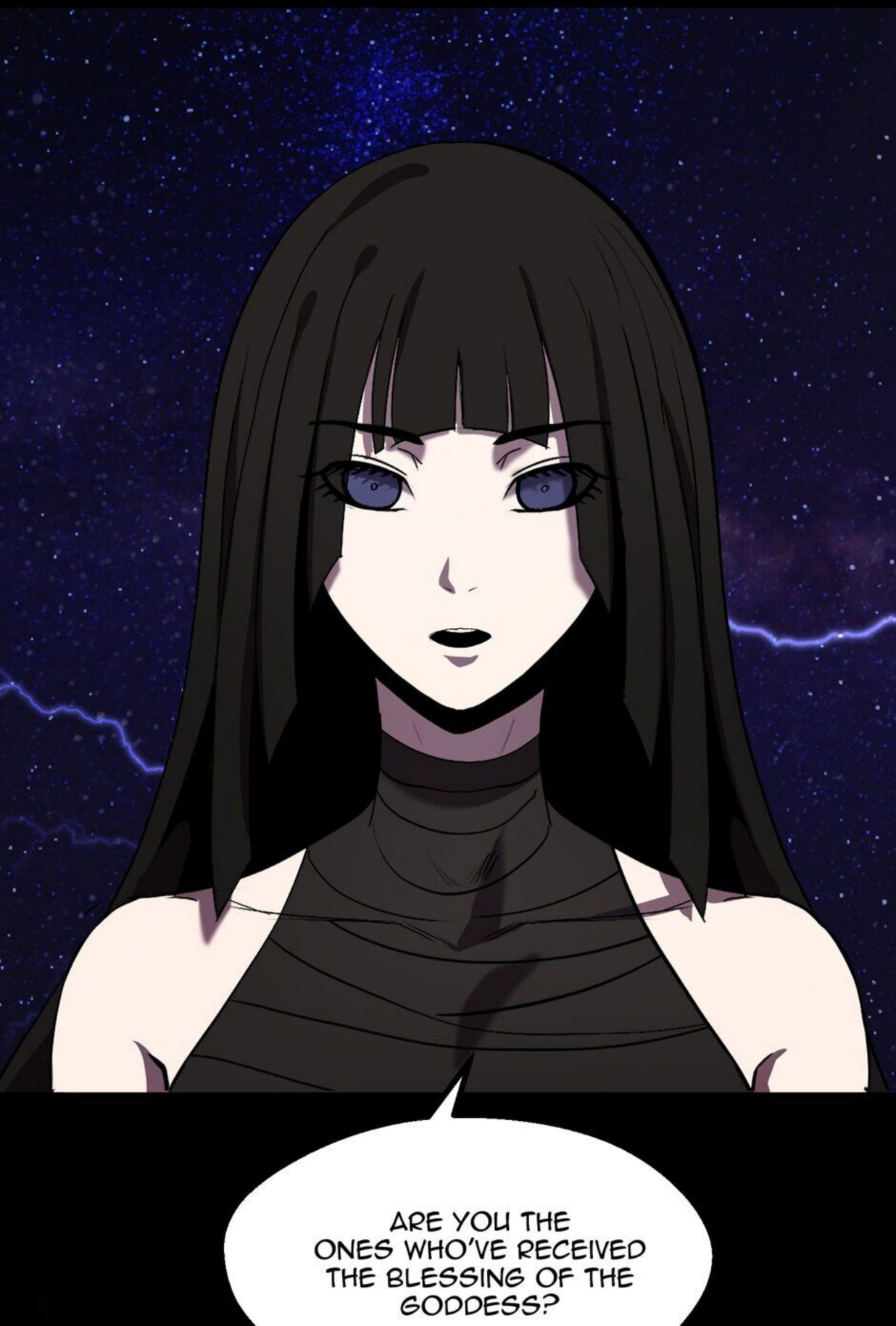

ARE YOU THE ONES WHO'VE RECEIVED THE BLESSING OF THE GODDESS?

BLESSING...?

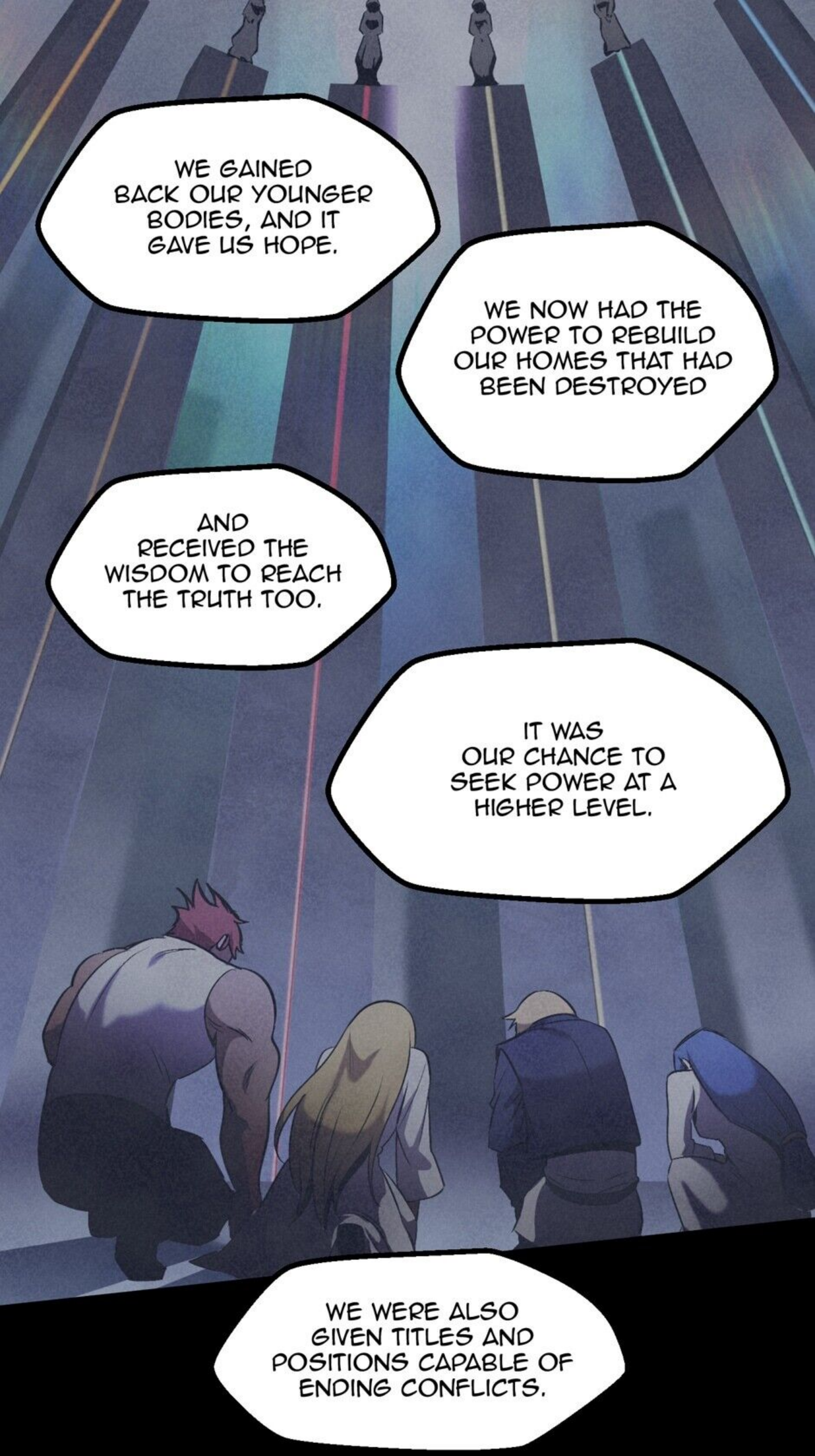
WHAT A
LOAD OF CRAP.

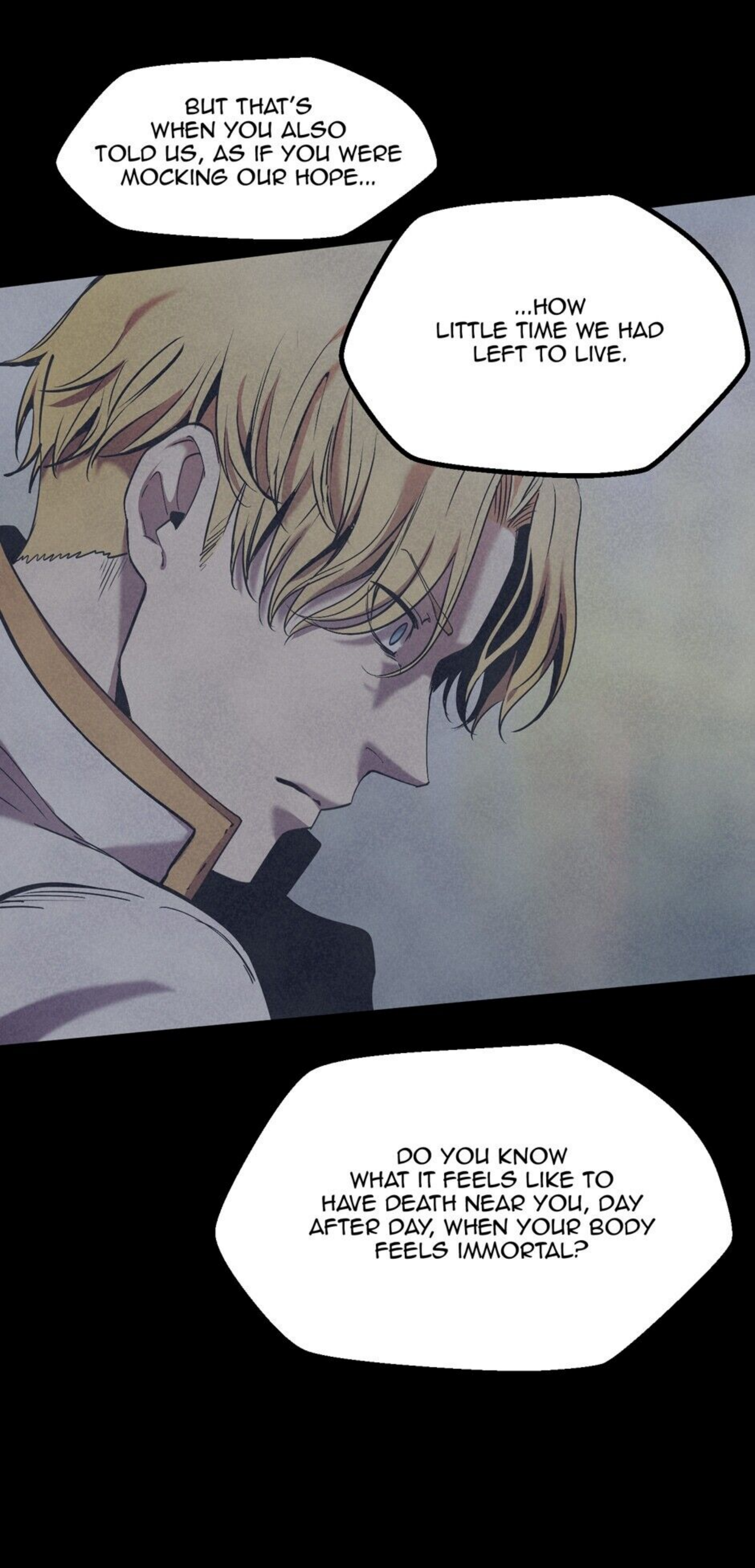
I SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT HERE JUST TO GET AN ANSWER.
WHY DID YOU COME?

20 YEARS AGO, WE FOUGHT THE OTHERWORLDERS—THE SPIES OF THE EVIL DEMONIC GOD...

BACK THEN,
WE DRAGGED OUR OLD,
RAGGED BODIES AND FOUGHT
FOR YOU, THINKING THAT IT
WAS OUR FINAL BATTLE.
WE DID DRIVE OUT
THE OTHERWORLDERS IN
THE END, THOUGH IT WAS
ONLY TEMPORARY...

WE THOUGHT THAT WE DID OUR FINAL DUTY FOR THIS WORLD THAT WAS PASSING AWAY.
WHEN WE RECEIVED THE BLESSING FROM THE GODDESS...


WE GAINED BACK OUR YOUNGER BODIES, AND IT GAVE US HOPE.
WE NOW HAD THE POWER TO REBUILD OUR HOMES THAT HAD BEEN DESTROYED
AND RECEIVED THE WISDOM TO REACH THE TRUTH TOO.
IT WAS OUR CHANCE TO SEEK POWER AT A HIGHER LEVEL.
WE WERE ALSO GIVEN TITLES AND POSITIONS CAPABLE OF ENDING CONFLICTS.


BUT THAT'S WHEN YOU ALSO TOLD US, AS IF YOU WERE MOCKING OUR HOPE...
...HOW LITTLE TIME WE HAD LEFT TO LIVE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO HAVE DEATH NEAR YOU, DAY AFTER DAY, WHEN YOUR BODY FEELS IMMORTAL?

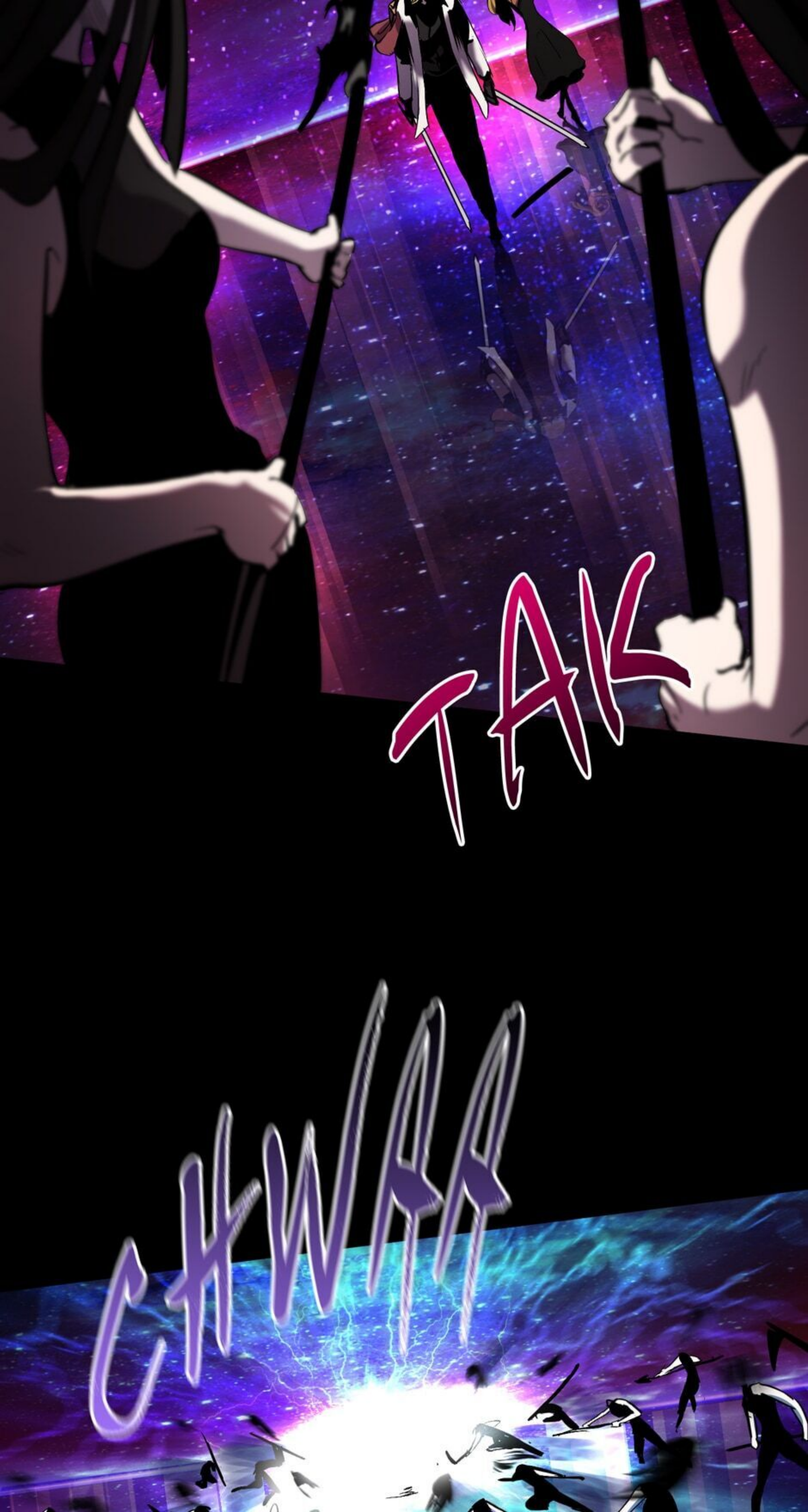
YOU HAD REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS... I TRUSTED THAT YOU'D BE ABLE TO LET GO OF OBSESSING OVER LIFE.

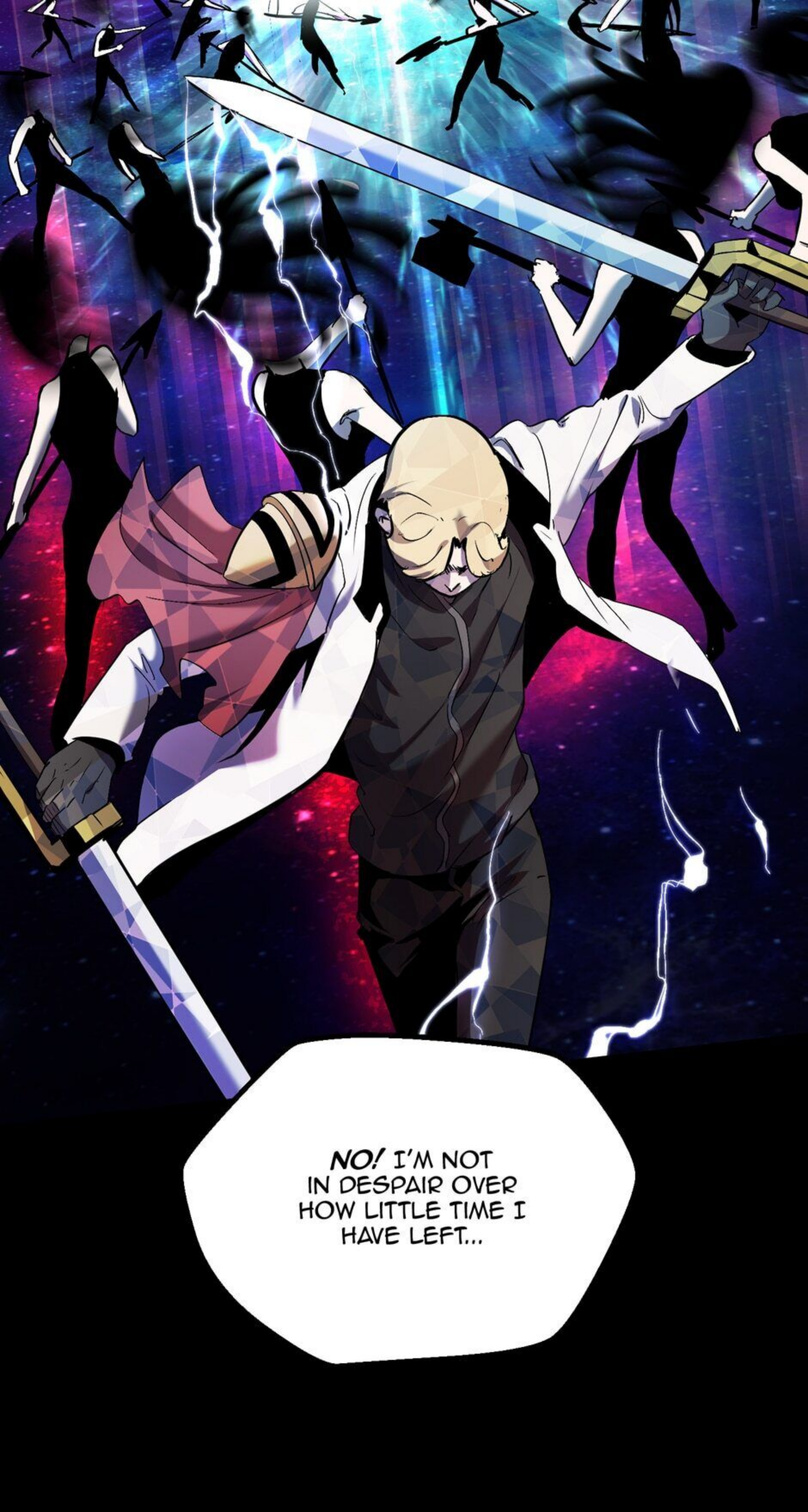
BUT YOU'VE STRAYED FROM THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

HOWEVER,
MISTAKES AND DESPAIR ARE A
PART OF BEING A MORTAL.

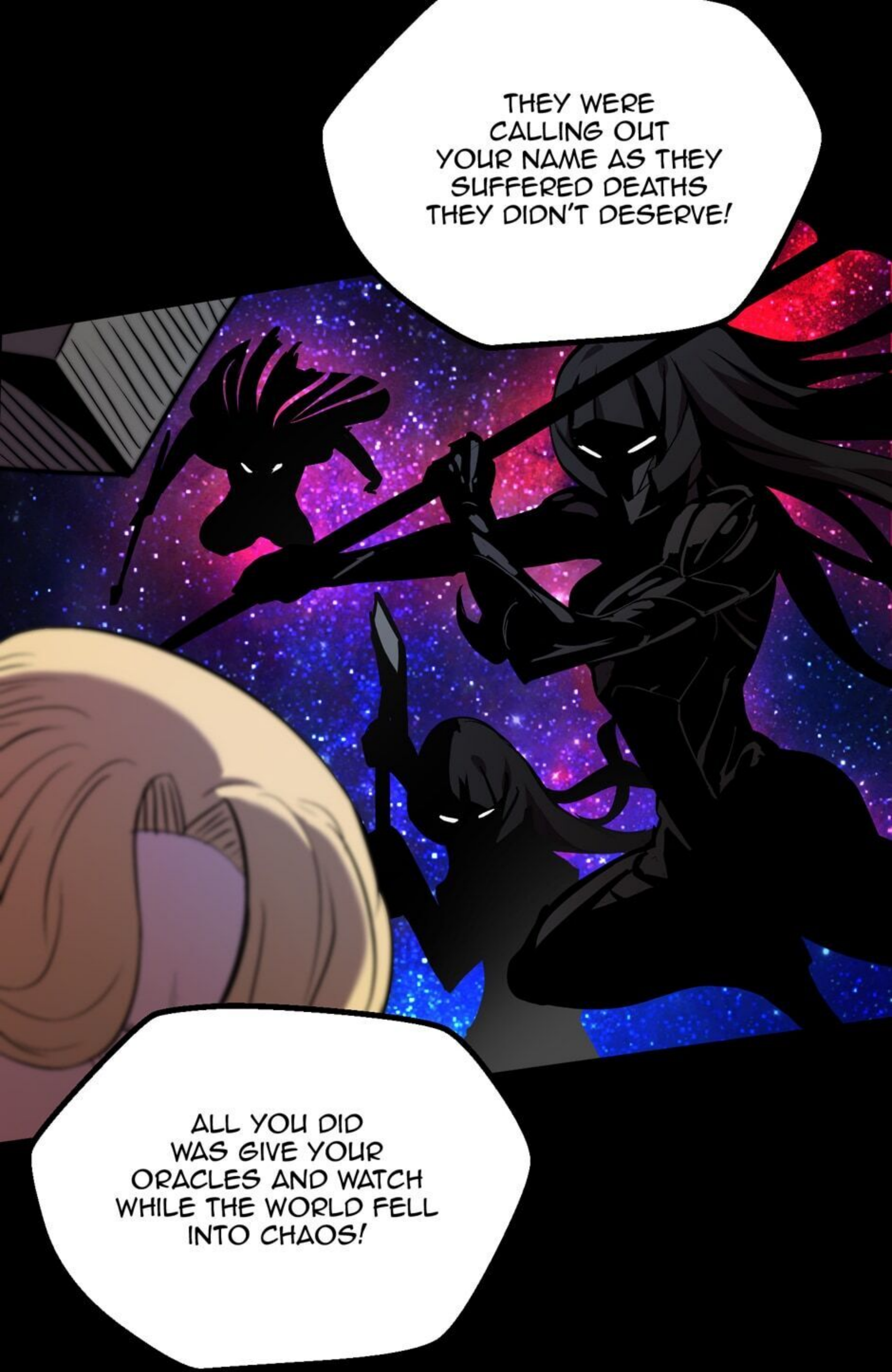
IF YOU'VE
RECEIVED YOUR
ANSWER, GO BACK.

TAK


TAK
CHWFF

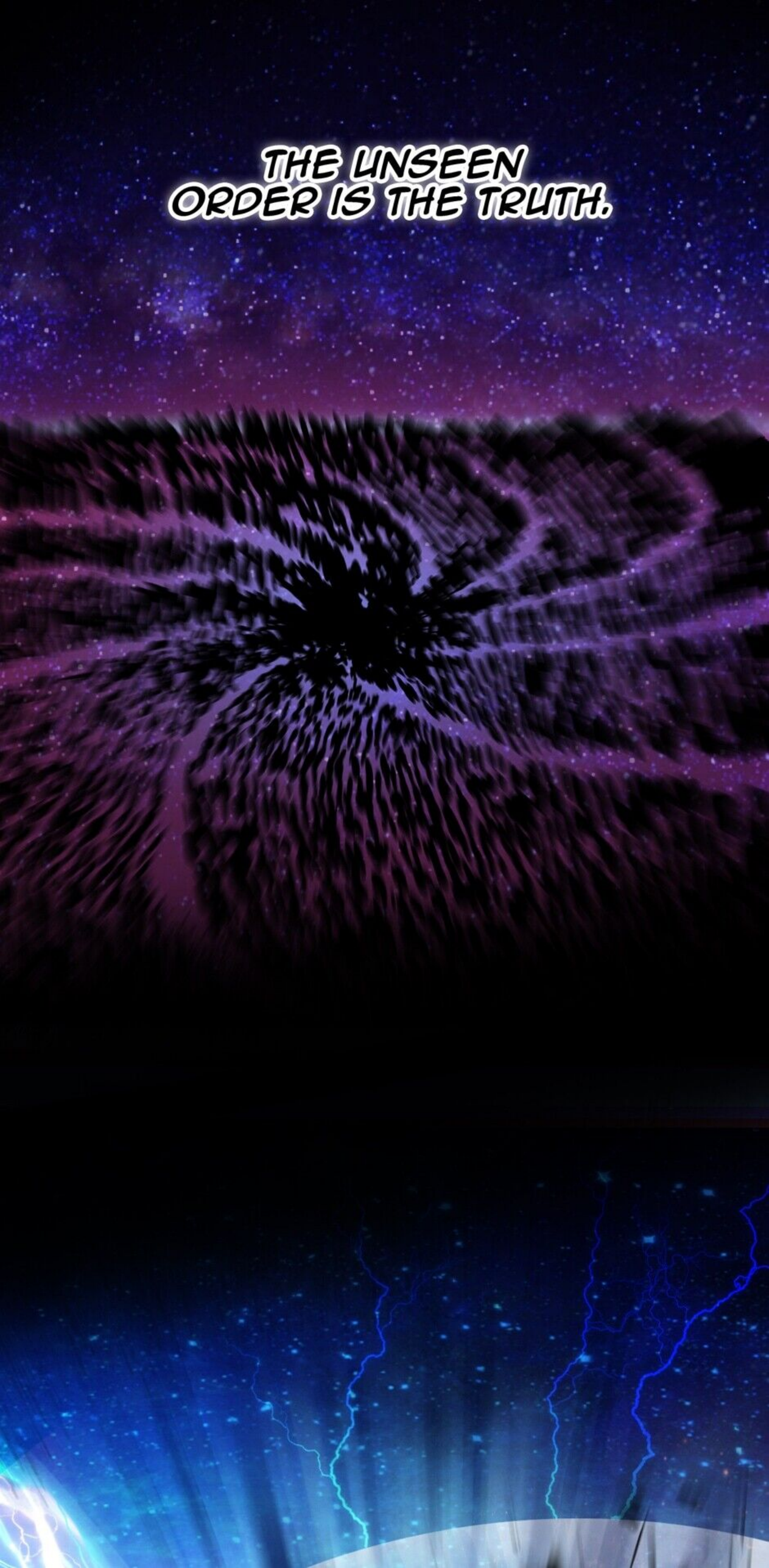

NO! I'M NOT IN DESPAIR OVER HOW LITTLE TIME I HAVE LEFT...

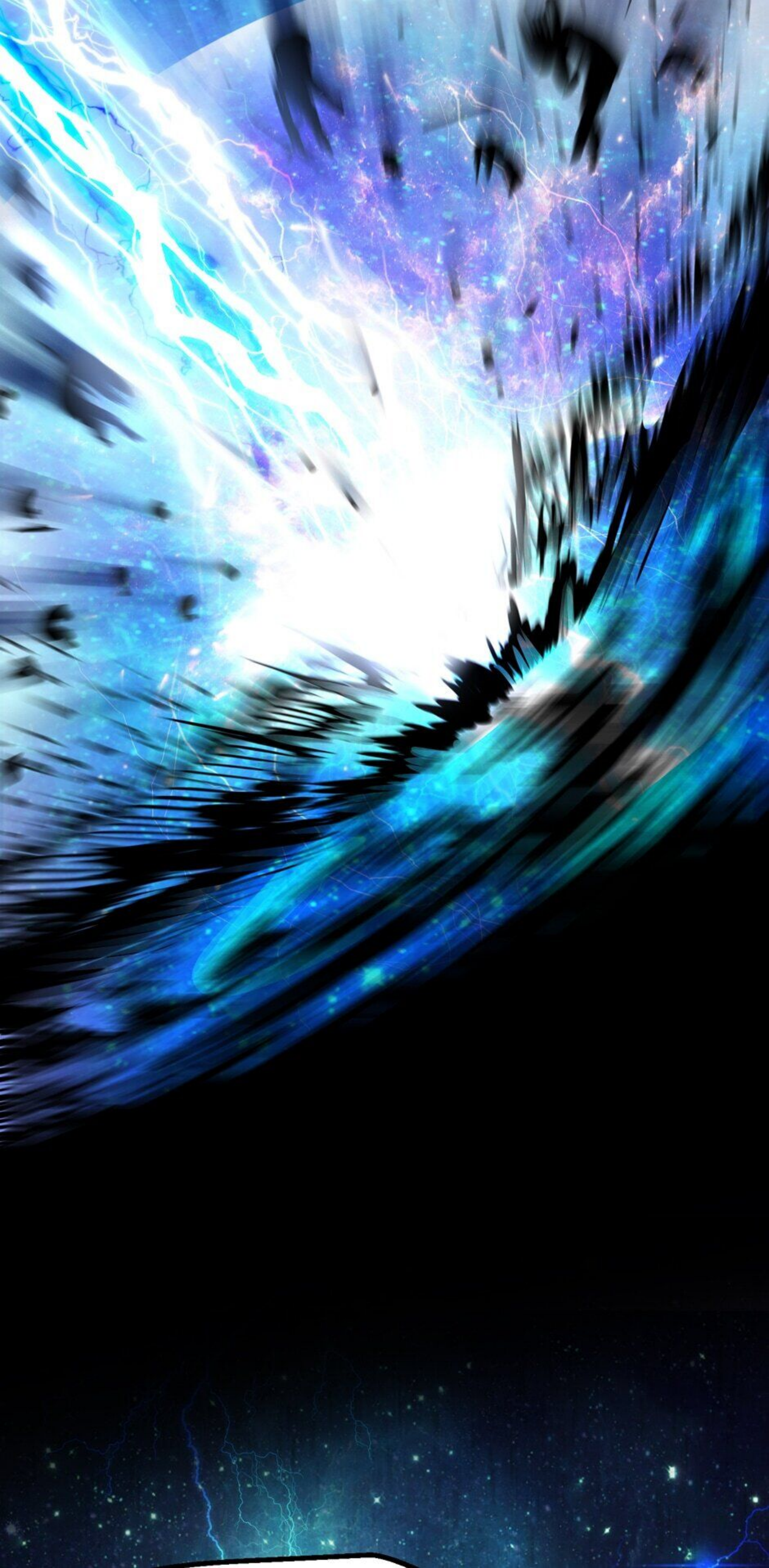
YOU CALL YOURSELF A 'GODDESS,' BUT WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER THAT WAR?
YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WERE BEING SLAUGHTERED BY THE DEMONS FROM ANOTHER WORLD.


THEY WERE CALLING OUT YOUR NAME AS THEY SUFFERED DEATHS THEY DIDN'T DESERVE!
ALL YOU DID WAS GIVE YOUR ORACLES AND WATCH WHILE THE WORLD FELL INTO CHAOS!

THAT'S RIGHT...
MY DESPAIR IS OVER YOU... THE GODDESS!

HOW COULD YOU EXPECT TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING... WHEN YOU ONLY GET TO LIVE FOR A SLIVER OF TIME?
CHILD... WHILE THE CHAOS BEFORE YOUR EYES IS A FACT,


THE UNSEEN
ORDER IS THE TRUTH.



THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED A GOD WHO JUST SITS AND DOES NOTHING!
THE WORLD NEEDS HEROES WHO'LL PUNISH EVIL AND CARRY OUT JUSTICE!
THIS IS WHY WE MUST BE THE ETERNAL AND INDESTRUCTIBLE PILLARS OF THIS WORLD!

OF THIS WORLD!
GIVE US ETERNAL LIFE! THEN THIS WORLD WILL BE KEPT SAFE!

G-GARHAN...

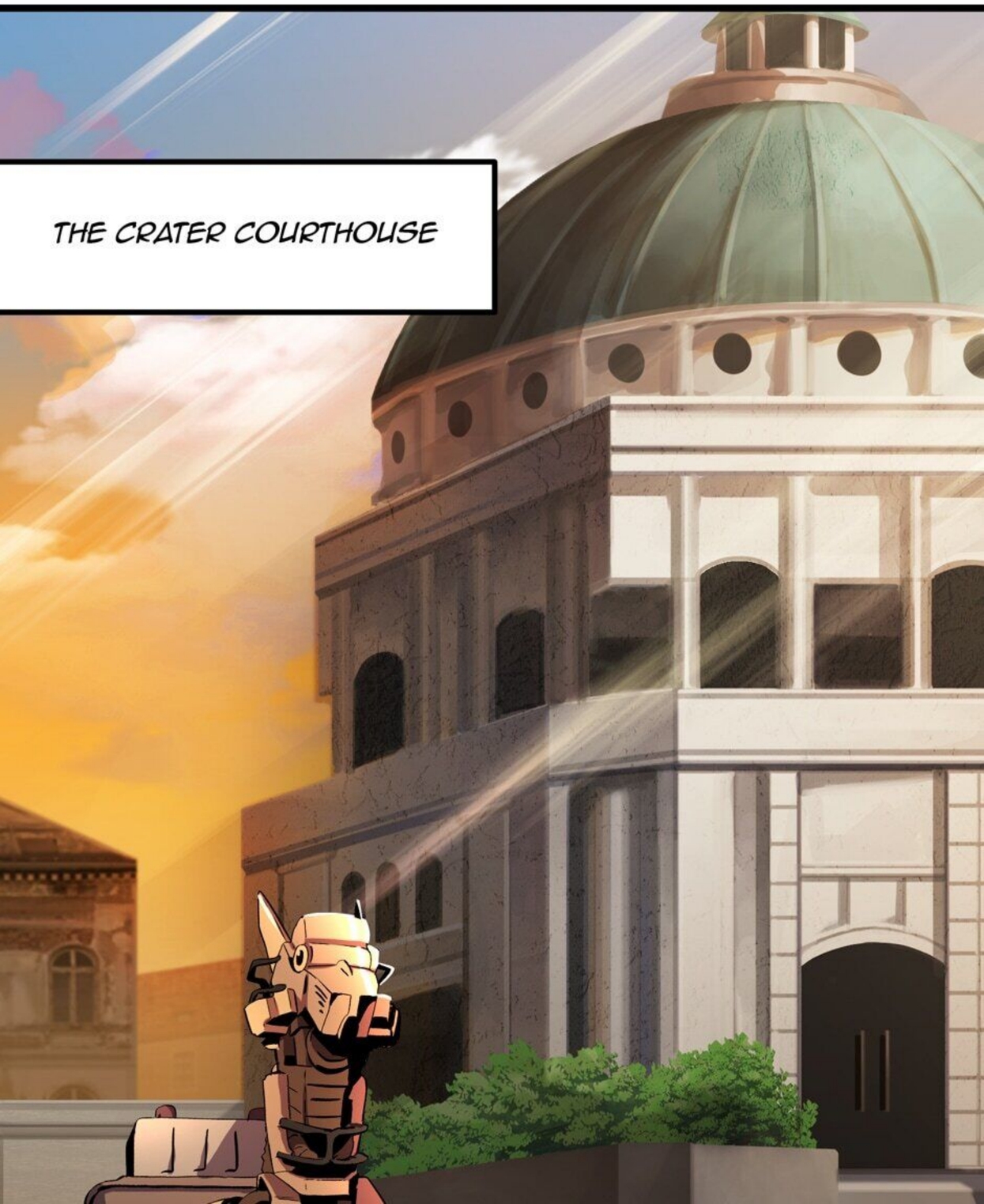
ZENOVIA...!

JUST AS IT IS
NOT A SIN FOR YOU TO SEEK
ETERNAL LIFE...

...THE DEATH I'M GIVING YOU NOW IS NOT A PUNISHMENT.
BUT YOUR FEAR OF DEATH MADE YOUR REMAINING LIFE TOO PAINFUL... I HAVE NO OTHER WAY.
WH-WHAT'S...?!

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR ETERNAL REST WITHOUT PAIN WHILE THE WORLD STILL REMEMBER YOU AS HEROES.
GODDESS OF DARKNESS!! IT WAS US WHO WERE GIVING YOU A CHANCE!

WILL YOU, GODDESS, ULTIMATELY FORSAKE US AND THE WORLD?!!
KIBRIEL!!!


THE CRATER COURTHOUSE

WE BARELY MADE IT ON TIME...
HOW DO YOU THINK THE TRIAL WILL GO?

SHE'S RECEIVED THE ABSOLUTION TICKET AND WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

HOW ABOUT MAIDEN? DID YOU TELL EMIL ABOUT GREAT EARTH?

OF COURSE NOT.

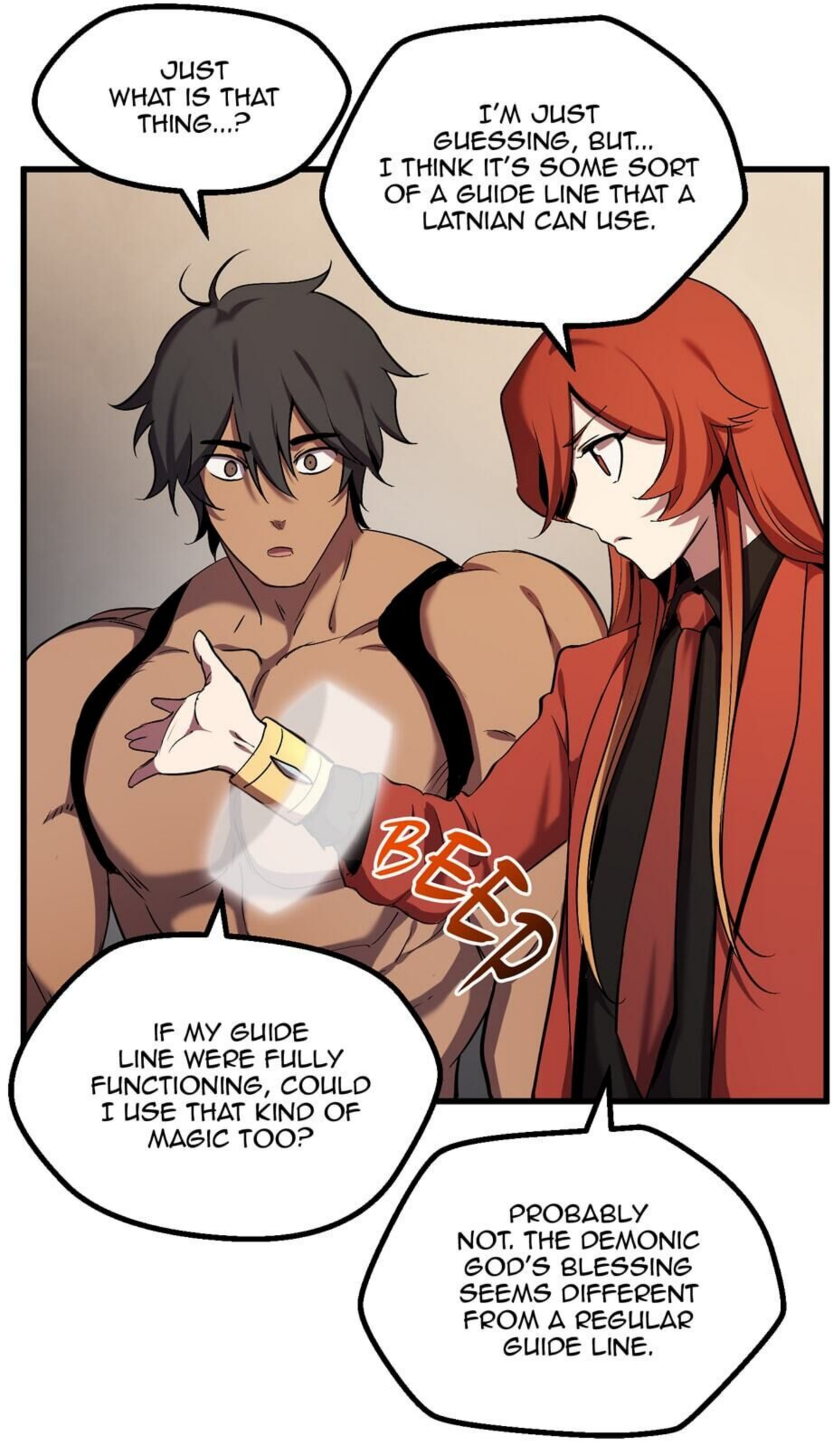
EMIL AGREED TO PROTECT MAIDEN TEMPORARILY, AS A VICTIM WHO HAD BEEN POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT.

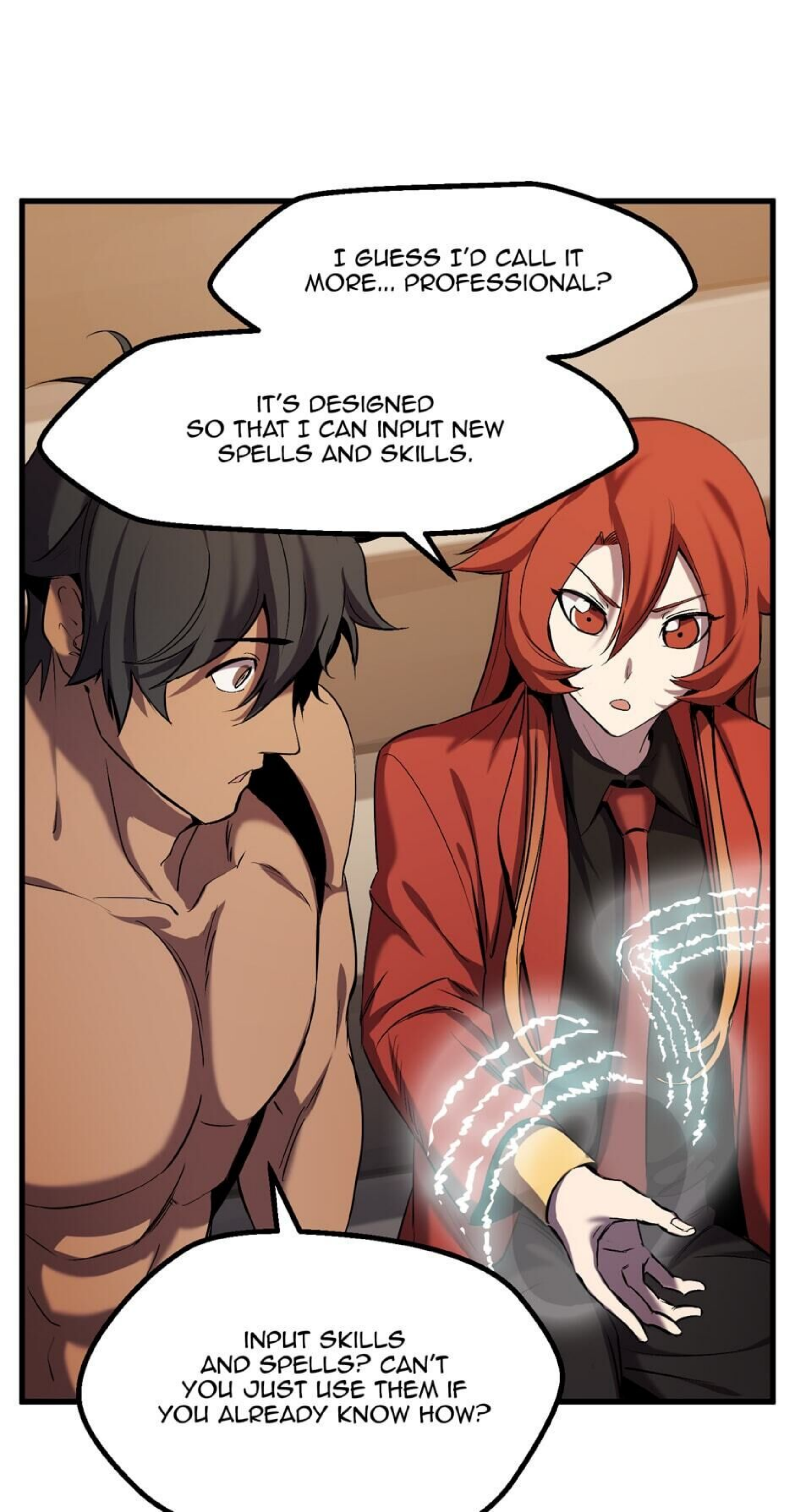
IF WE TELL EMIL WE WERE INVOLVED WITH GREAT EARTH AGAIN...

HE'D BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND ABOUT EPHYR TOO.
THAT'S TRUE... HE MIGHT THINK THE LICH INCIDENT WAS A COINCIDENCE, BUT WE DEALT WITH ALEJANDRO AFTER THAT AND THE GHOST MANOR TOO...
THE CHURCH WOULDN'T BELIEVE US IF WE TOLD THEM THEY WERE ALL COINCIDENCES.

BUT JUDGING FROM THE FACT THAT THEY MADE ALL THOSE TRAPS IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS,
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE STILL HIDING OUT AND WE'RE JUST A NUISANCE FOR THEM.
I GUESS IT DOES MEAN THAT THEY DON'T KNOW OUR TRUE IDENTITY YET, SINCE THEY USED SUCH A TROUBLESOME WAY TO GET RID OF US.

SO IF THEY EVER FIND OUT THAT WE BROUGHT BACK A PIECE OF OMPHALOS' BLESSING WITH US...
THEY'LL COME AFTER US FOR SURE.
WE SHOULD JUST HOLD ON TO IT INSTEAD OF REPORTING IT TO THE CHURCH.


JUST WHAT IS THAT THING...?
I'M JUST GUESSING, BUT... I THINK IT'S SOME SORT OF A GUIDE LINE THAT A LATNIAN CAN USE.
BEEP
IF MY GUIDE LINE WERE FULLY FUNCTIONING, COULD I USE THAT KIND OF MAGIC TOO?
PROBABLY NOT. THE DEMONIC GOD'S BLESSING SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR GUIDE LINE.


I GUESS I'D CALL IT MORE... PROFESSIONAL?
IT'S DESIGNED SO THAT I CAN INPUT NEW SPELLS AND SKILLS.
INPUT SKILLS AND SPELLS? CAN'T YOU JUST USE THEM IF YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW?

IT ALLOWS YOU TO USE SKILLS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO!

YOU'RE A SWORD MASTER, WHICH MEANS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE OTHERS' LEVELS LIKE HIGH-LEVEL MAGES.

BUT YOU CAN DO THAT WITH YOUR GUIDE LINE, LIKE HOW YOU ABSORB EXP LIKE A DRAGON.

THIS ALLOWS YOU TO REACH BEYOND YOUR LIMIT...

...AND EVEN USE MAGIC THAT SURPASSES HUMAN ABILITY.

TO MAKE IT SIMPLE... PEOPLE ARE LIKE CRAPPY OLD COMPUTERS,

HIGH-LEVEL SPELLS ARE LIKE CPU-INTENSIVE PROGRAMS,

AND A GUIDE LINE OR OMPHALOS' BLESSING IS LIKE UPGRADED COMPUTER PARTS...?

WE WERE LUCKY TO GET OUT OF THAT MANOR ALIVE.
CLENCH

WE WERE ABLE TO STOP THE SPELL BECAUSE WE WERE STUCK IN THERE WITH MAIDEN.

ON TOP OF THAT, MY SPELL DIDN'T REACH ITS FULL POWER SINCE WE ONLY HAD A PIECE OF OMPHALOS' BLESSING.

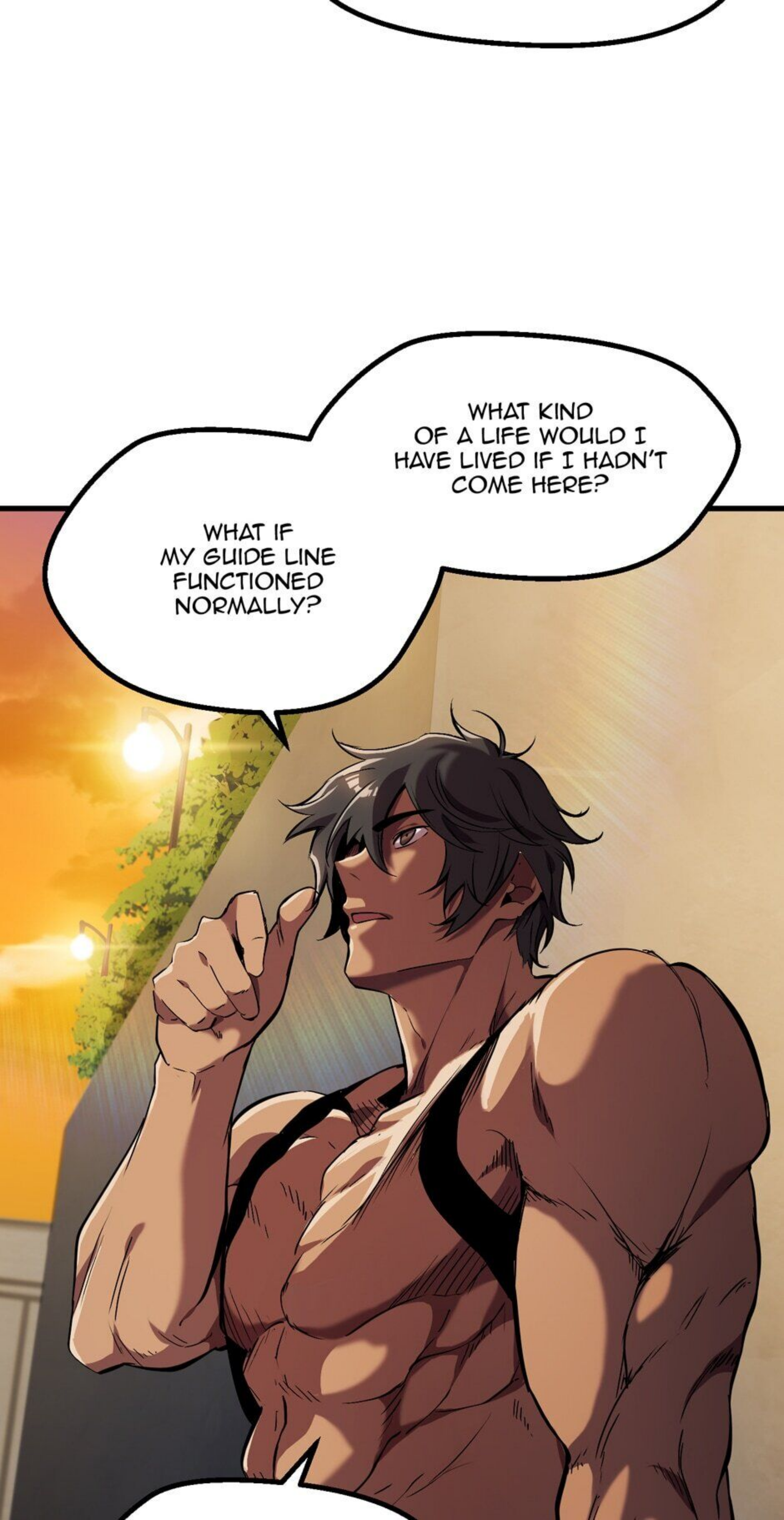
IF... IT WERE A
MORE PERFECTED VERSION OF
OMPHALOS' BLESSING...

YOU WOULD'VE BEEN STUCK IN THAT DIMENSIONAL-TRANSPORTATION SPELL FOREVER.

I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT EITHER.

CHOMP

AGH!!
MY BURRITO! THAT WAS MY FIRST DECENT MEAL IN FOREVER!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN WITH FOOD IN FRONT OF YOU.
IF THIS WERE THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN, YOU WOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE WHO WAS EATEN ALIVE.


WHAT KIND OF A LIFE WOULD I HAVE LIVED IF I HADN'T COME HERE?
WHAT IF MY GUIDE LINE FUNCTIONED NORMALLY?

FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF MY LIFE ON THAT ROCKY MOUNTAIN, I KEPT THINKING THESE THOUGHTS OVER AND OVER WHILE LIVING IN FEAR...

THEN I REALIZED... IT WAS A COMPLETELY USELESS THOUGHT.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS 'IF' IN LIFE.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT, BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE...

...WE WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE. THAT'S OUR REALITY.
...OKAY.

PLOP
OH, EPHYR!
MAIDEN! HOW'D IT GO?

I WAS QUICKLY ACQUITTED BECAUSE OF MAIDEN'S TESTIMONY, BUT...
HEH... HEHEHE...
WH-WHAT DID HANBIN DO TO YOU JUST NOW?!

I DIDN'T GIVE HIM PERMISSION, BUT...

HE JUST LEANED OVER AND PUT HIS MOUTH...

DIE!!
OW!
WHAT? WHY?!

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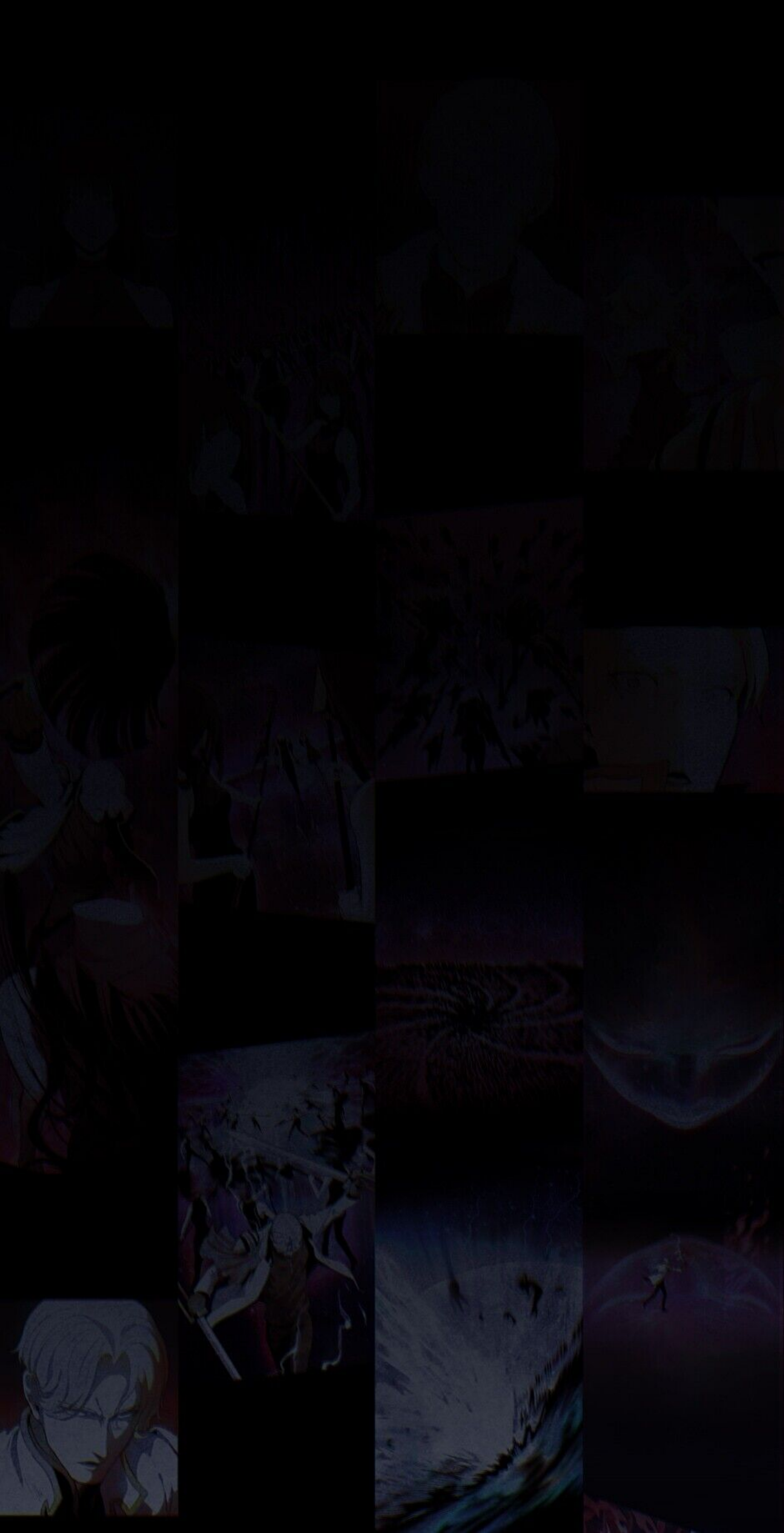
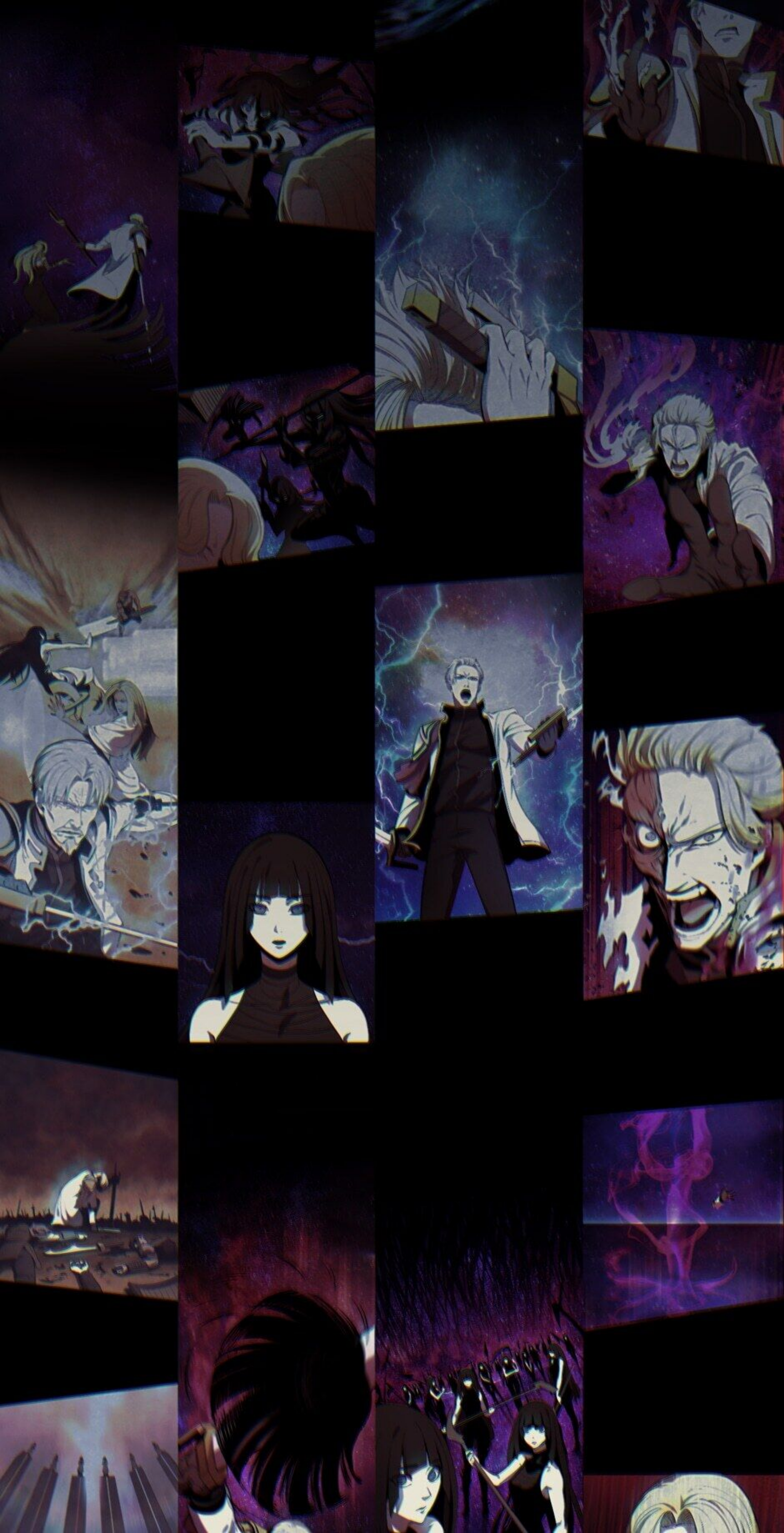


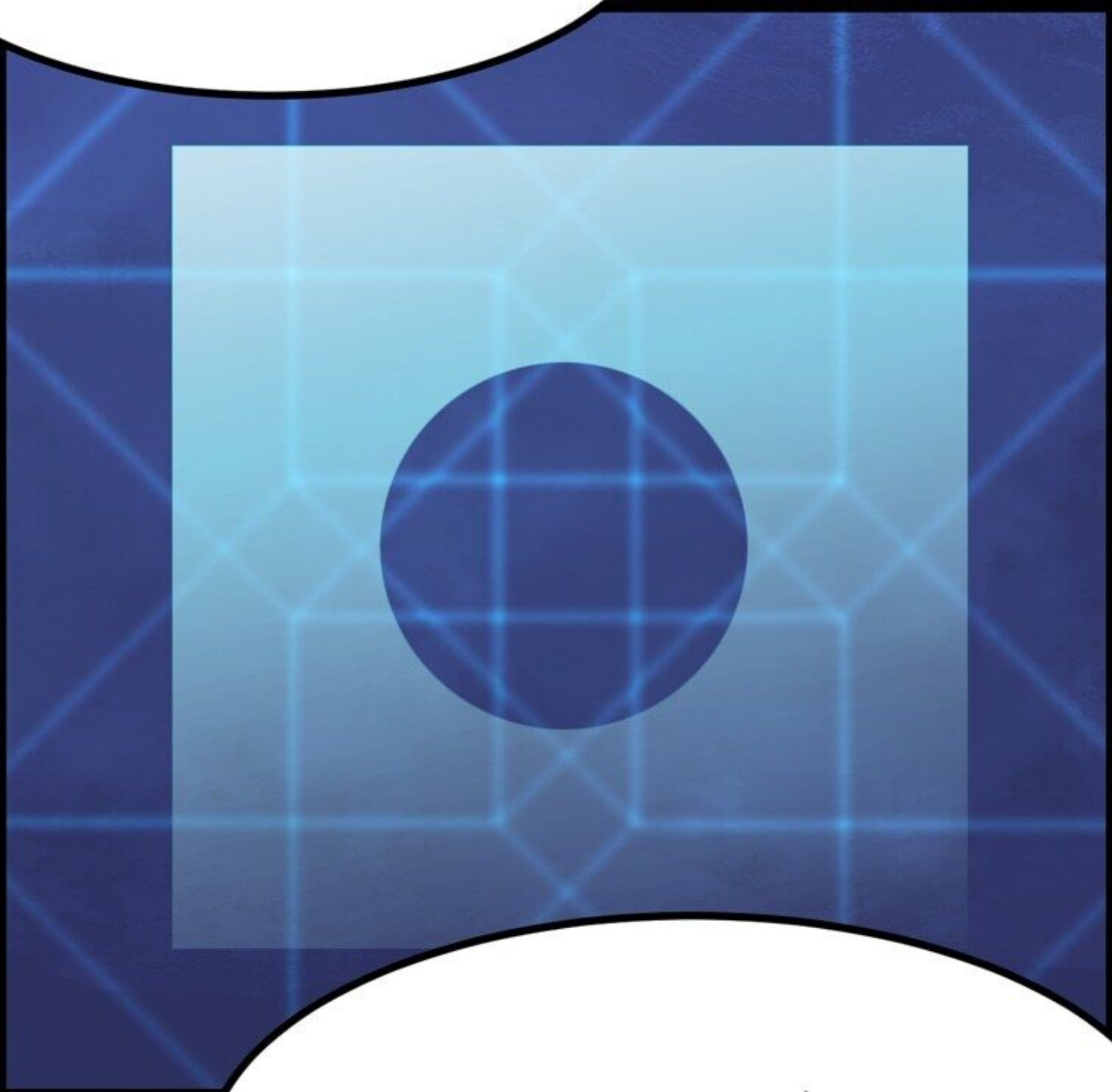


THE GODDESS EXISTS IN A HIGHER DIMENSION.

SHE'S LITERALLY ON ANOTHER LEVEL.

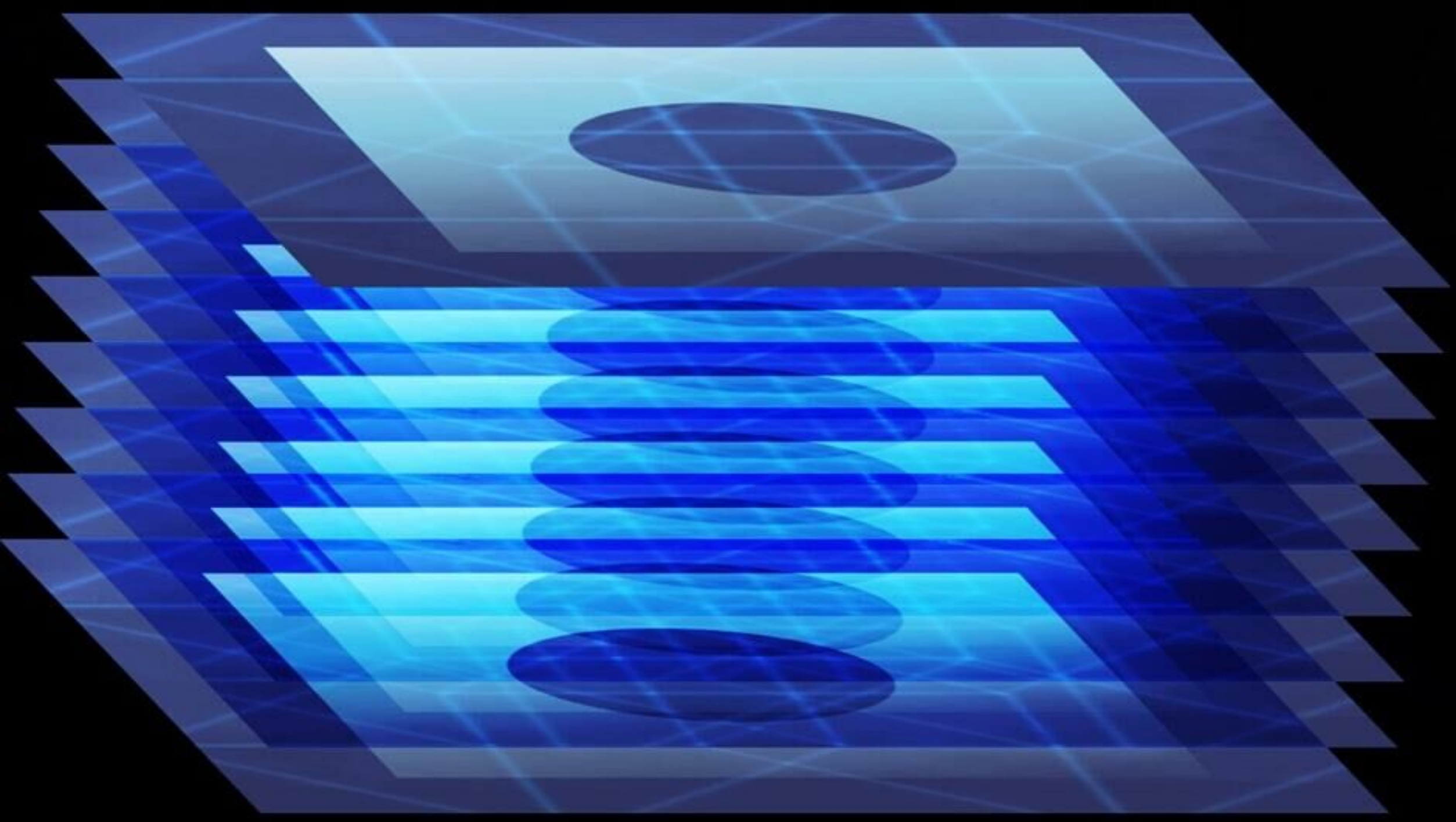
WE CANNOT FULLY UNDERSTAND A GOD, SINCE WE ONLY LIVE IN A FOUR-DIMENSIONAL WORLD.

BUT WE CAN CONSIDER THIS IN AN OPPOSITE WAY.



TO THEM, WE'RE JUST SHAPES DRAWN ON A FLAT SURFACE.

AND OUR DESPERATELY-WANTED ETERNITY IS JUST ANOTHER AXIS INSIDE A DIFFERENT DIMENSION.



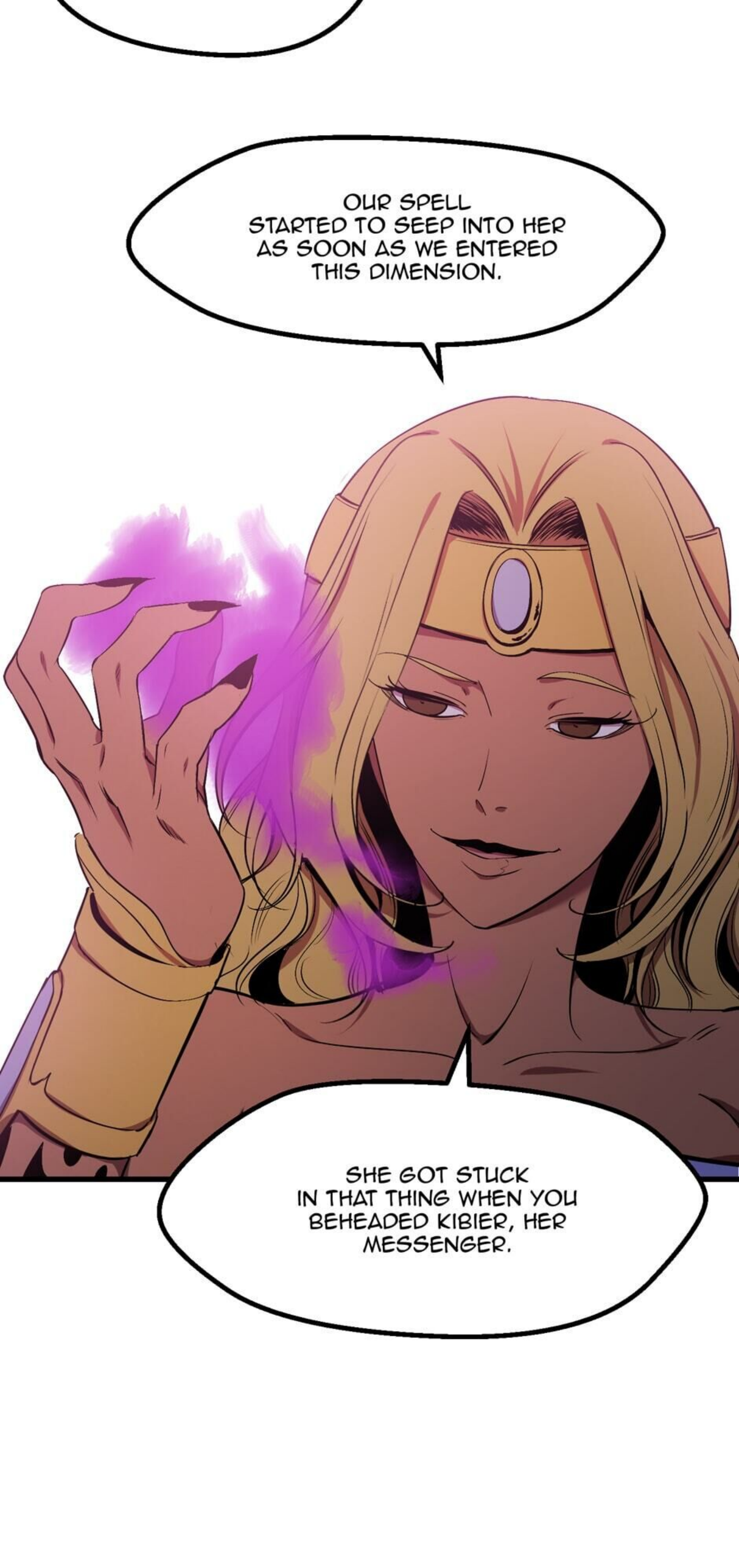
THAT'S WHY NONE OF US CAN ATTACK THE GODDESS.

WELL, AT LEAST
THAT'S HOW THINGS WERE
UNTIL NOW.

DIMENSIONAL-
TRANSPORTATION
SEALING SPELL
Species: Goddess
Lvl: Unknown

WHAT A SHAME, KIBRIEL... A HIGHER-DIMENSIONAL BEING IS NOW STUCK IN A LOWER DIMENSION.
UNTIL WE COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND YOUR DIVINE POWER, YOU'LL BE REPEATING A FUTURE THAT DOESN'T EXIST.

ZENOVIA!
WHAT ARE THE CHANCES KIBRIEL COULD FIGURE OUT OUR PLAN FROM A LOWER DIMENSION?
WELL...
THAT MAY BE POSSIBLE IF WE FORCED OUR WAY HERE...
BUT THE GODDESS IS SPACE AND DIMENSION ITSELF, AND SHE'S THE ONE WHO CALLED US HERE.

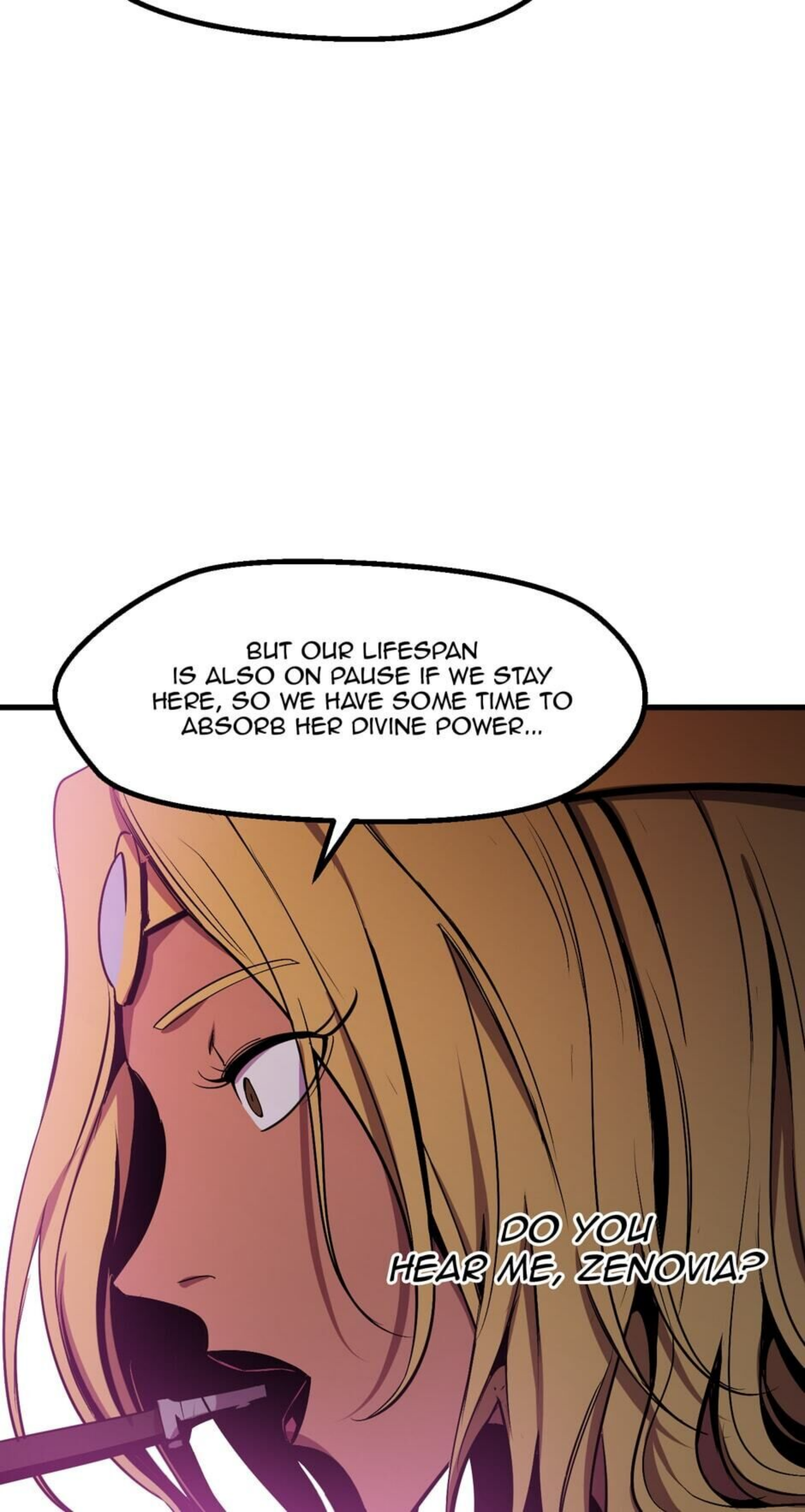

OUR SPELL STARTED TO SEEP INTO HER AS SOON AS WE ENTERED THIS DIMENSION.
SHE GOT STUCK IN THAT THING WHEN YOU BEHEADED KIBIER, HER MESSENGER.

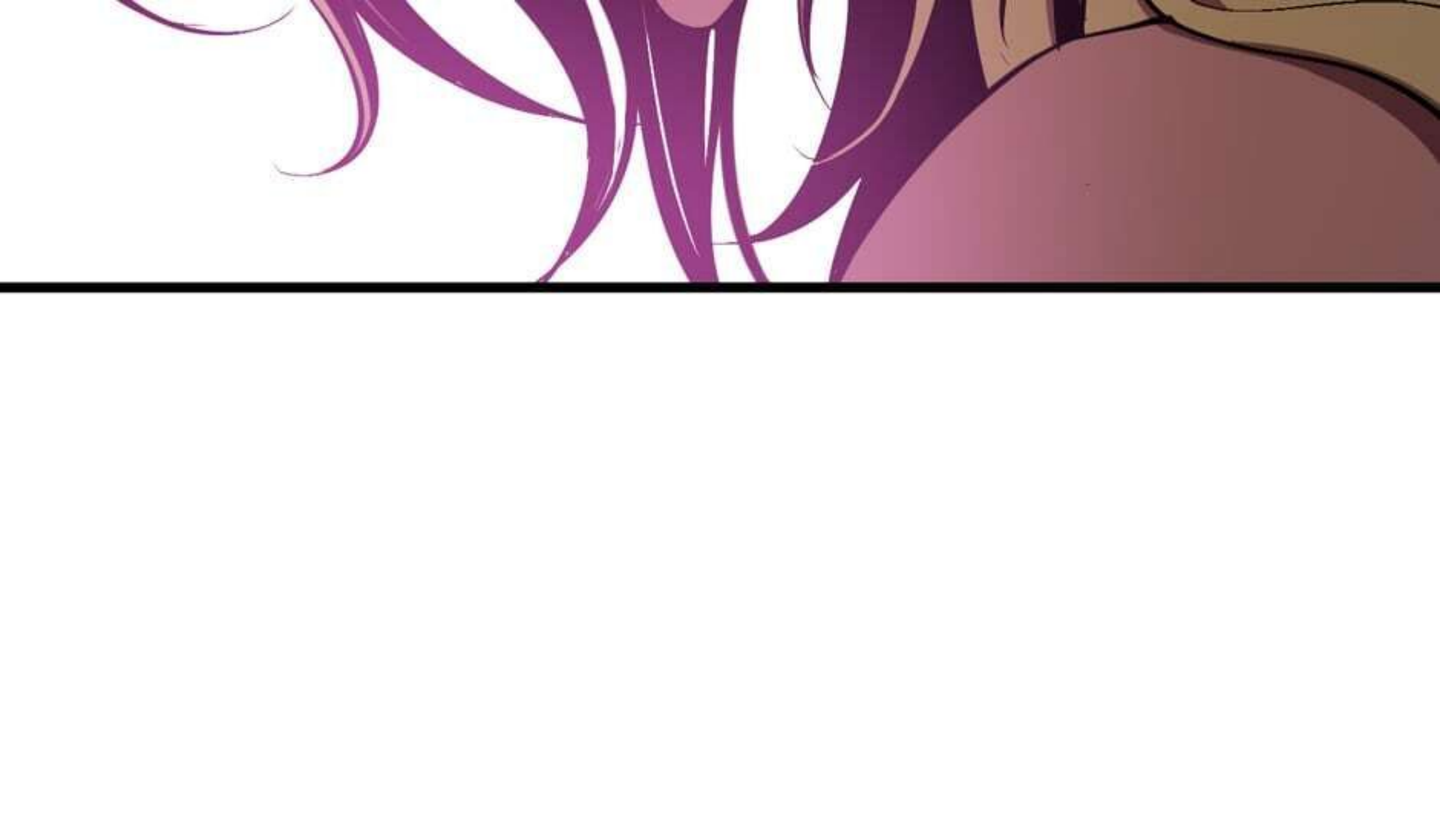
AND EVEN IF SHE REALIZED OUR PLAN, IT'S TOO LATE.
YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN AWAY HALF OF HER 'DIVINE POWER OF DARKNESS.'
THAT'S TRUE... I DIDN'T SENSE ANYTHING FROM KIBRIEL THAT WOULD INDICATE SHE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT OMPHALOS' BLESSING.

BUT IT'S ONLY HALF OF HER POWER... WE CAN'T ATTAIN IMMORTALITY WITH JUST THIS.
IS IT BECAUSE OMPHALOS' BLESSING IS STILL UNSTABLE?
CAN'T WE JUST MAKE MORE OMPHALOS' BLESSING TO ABSORB ALL OF HER DIVINE POWER?

HOW CAN THAT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO DO NOW?

IN ORDER FOR THE GODDESS TO STAY LOCKED UP IN THAT THING, WE LEAVE THIS IN-BETWEEN DIMENSION.


BUT OUR LIFESPAN IS ALSO ON PAUSE IF WE STAY HERE, SO WE HAVE SOME TIME TO ABSORB HER DIVINE POWER...
DO YOU HEAR ME, ZENOVIA?



TH-THE VOICE OF THE GODDESS?!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO REACH US FROM A LOWER DIMENSION!

OH! I WAS ABLE TO STARTLE THE FAMOUS ARCHMAGE! THIS POWER SEEMS PRETTY USEFUL!

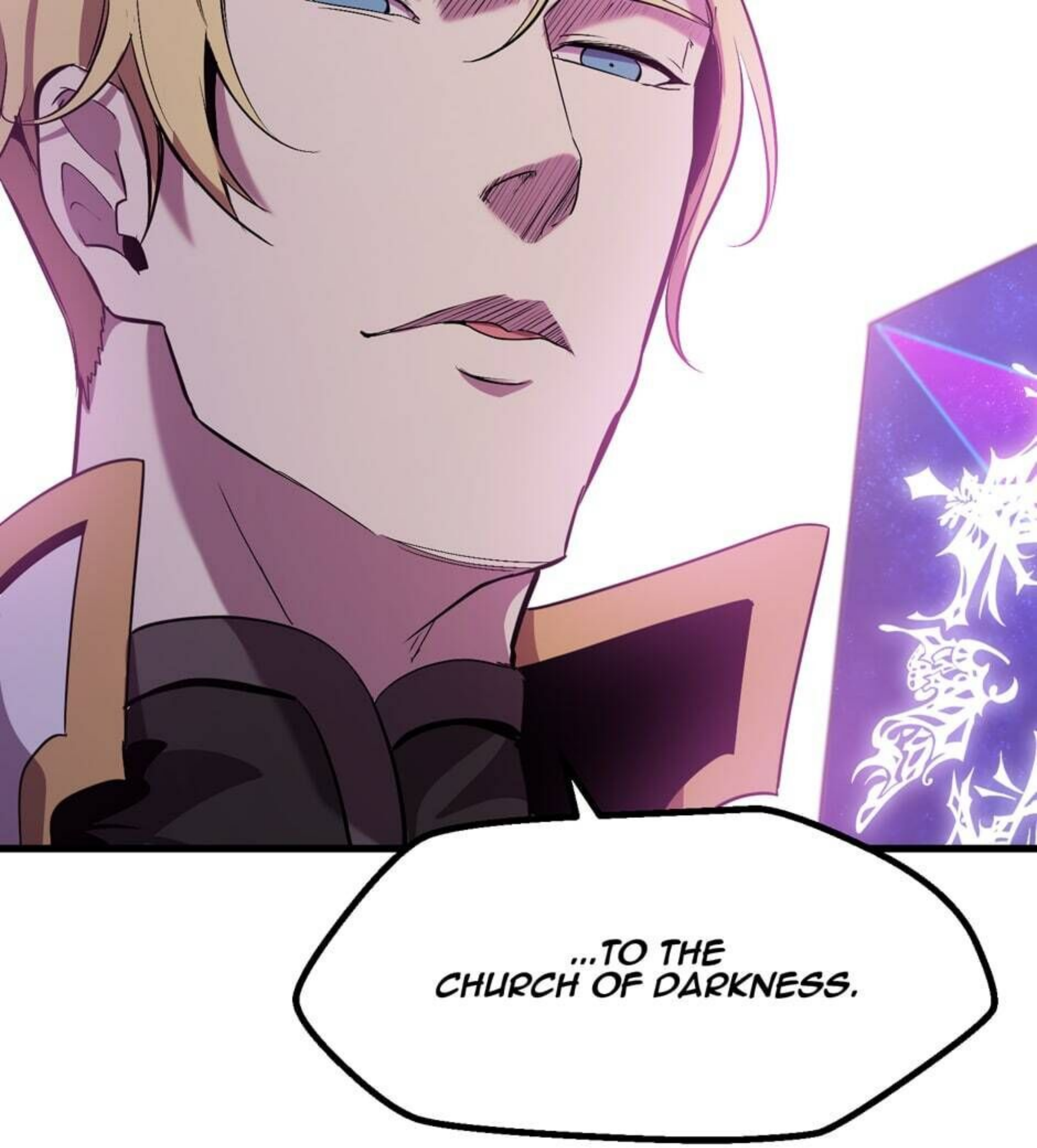
WH-WHAT...? IT WAS ***YOU,*** GARHAN? YOU USED THE DIVINE POWER YOU TOOK FROM HER?

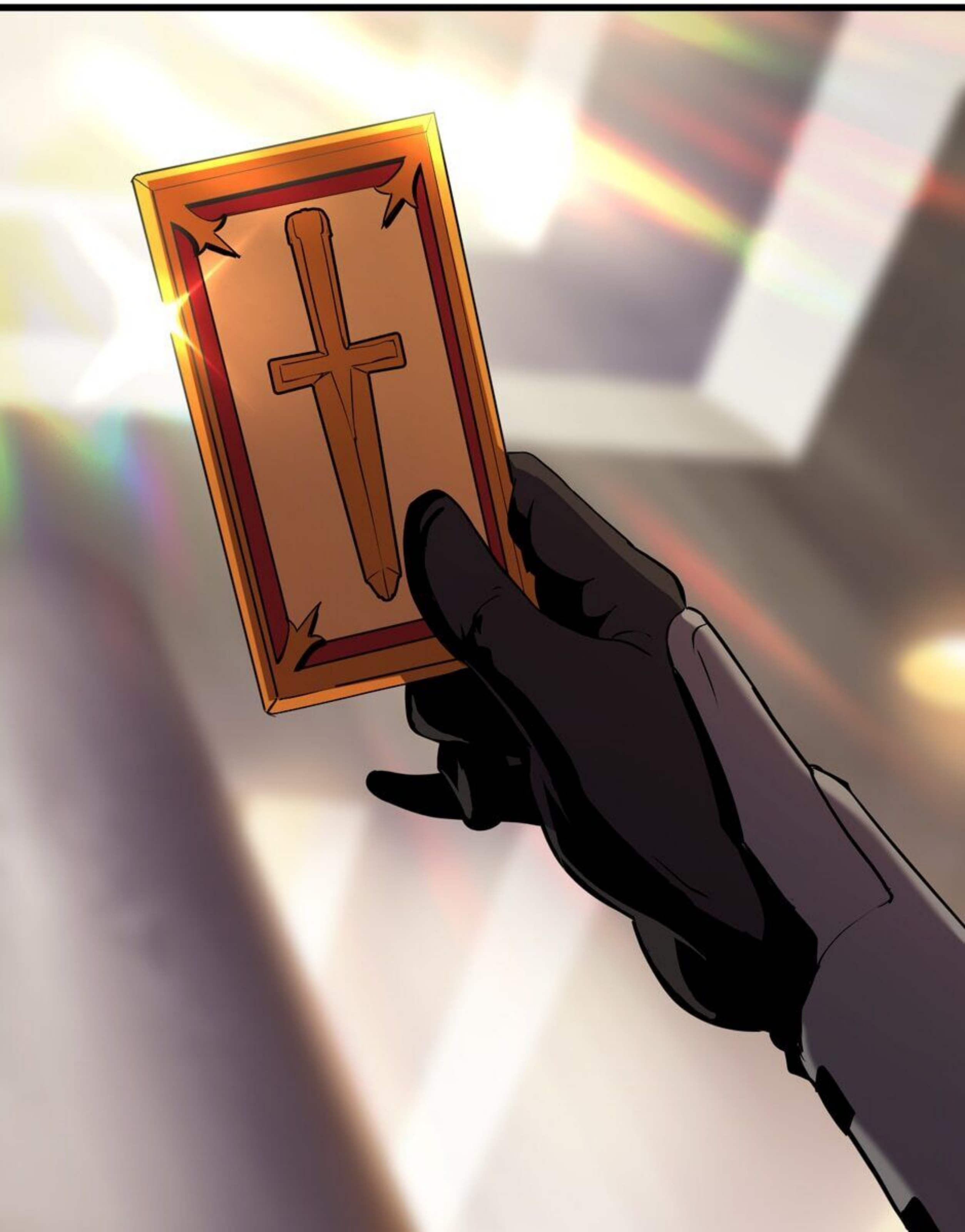
YES... AND WE CAN USE THIS POWER TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE.

WHAT'S THE POINT? WE CAN'T USE GREAT EARTH SINCE THE CHURCH OF LIGHT IS ALREADY ON THEM.

IF WE'RE FIGHTING A CHURCH... WE SHOULD USE ANOTHER CHURCH FOR IT.

WE CAN GIVE
AN ORACLE UNDER THE
NAME OF KIBRIEL...


...TO THE
CHURCH OF DARKNESS.



I'M SURPRISED!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN MAKING A PARTY, MISTER ARTIS!

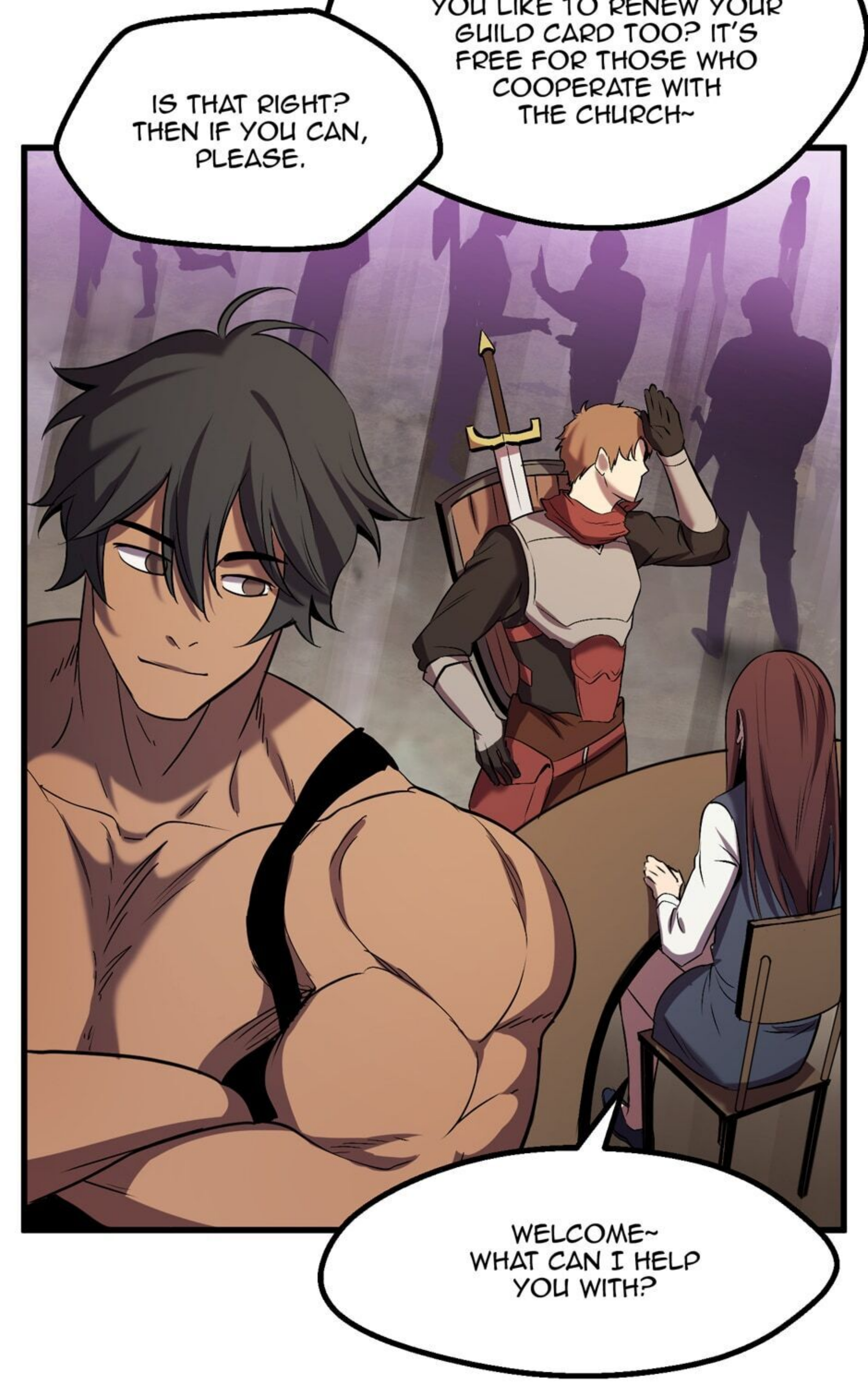
BUT WHY WOULD YOU ACCEPT A NOVICE LEVEL 15 HUNTER...?

HAHA...
A LOT OF THINGS
HAPPENED.

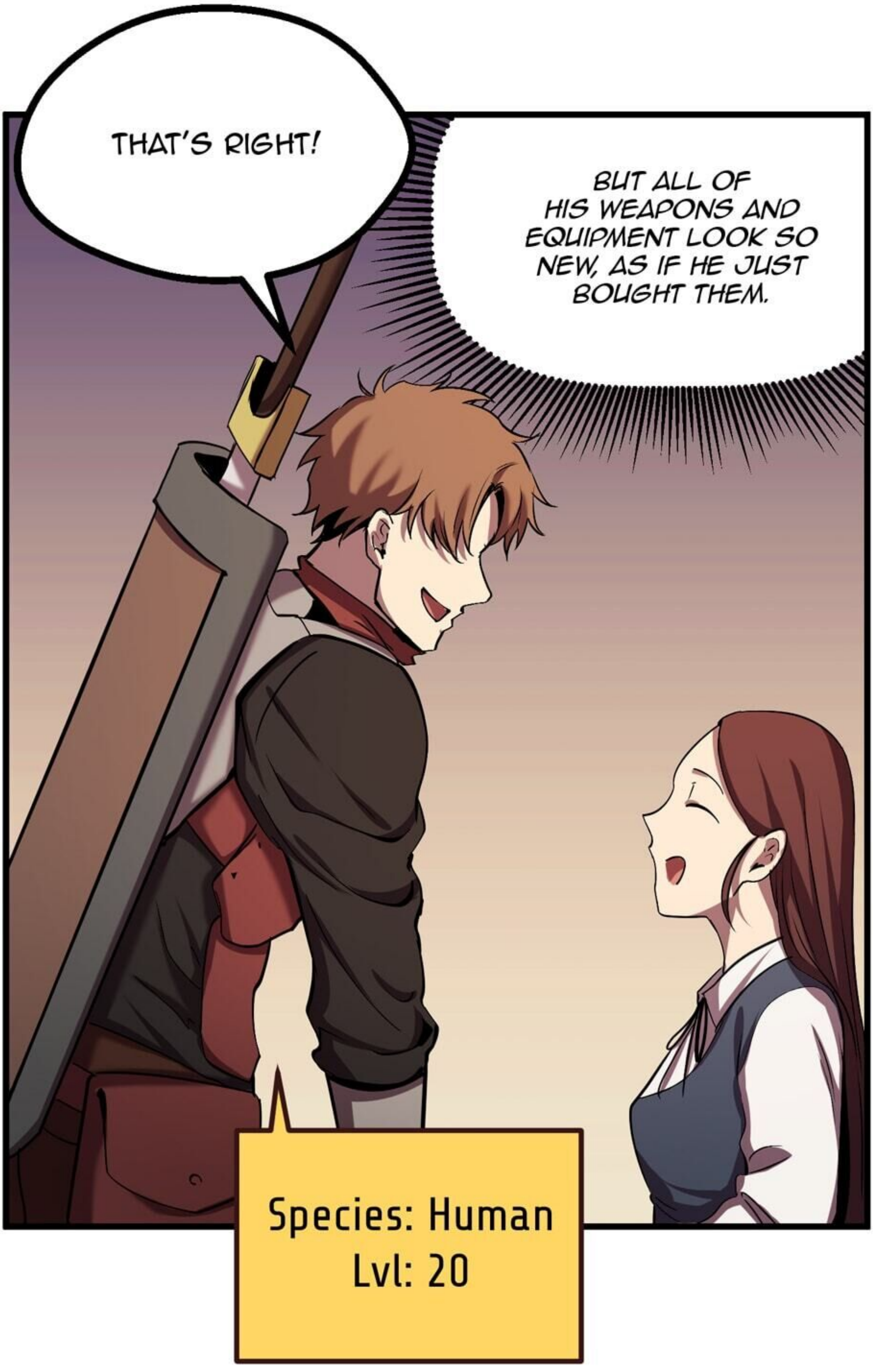
I'LL PAY
FOR HER GUILD
REGISTRATION FEE.

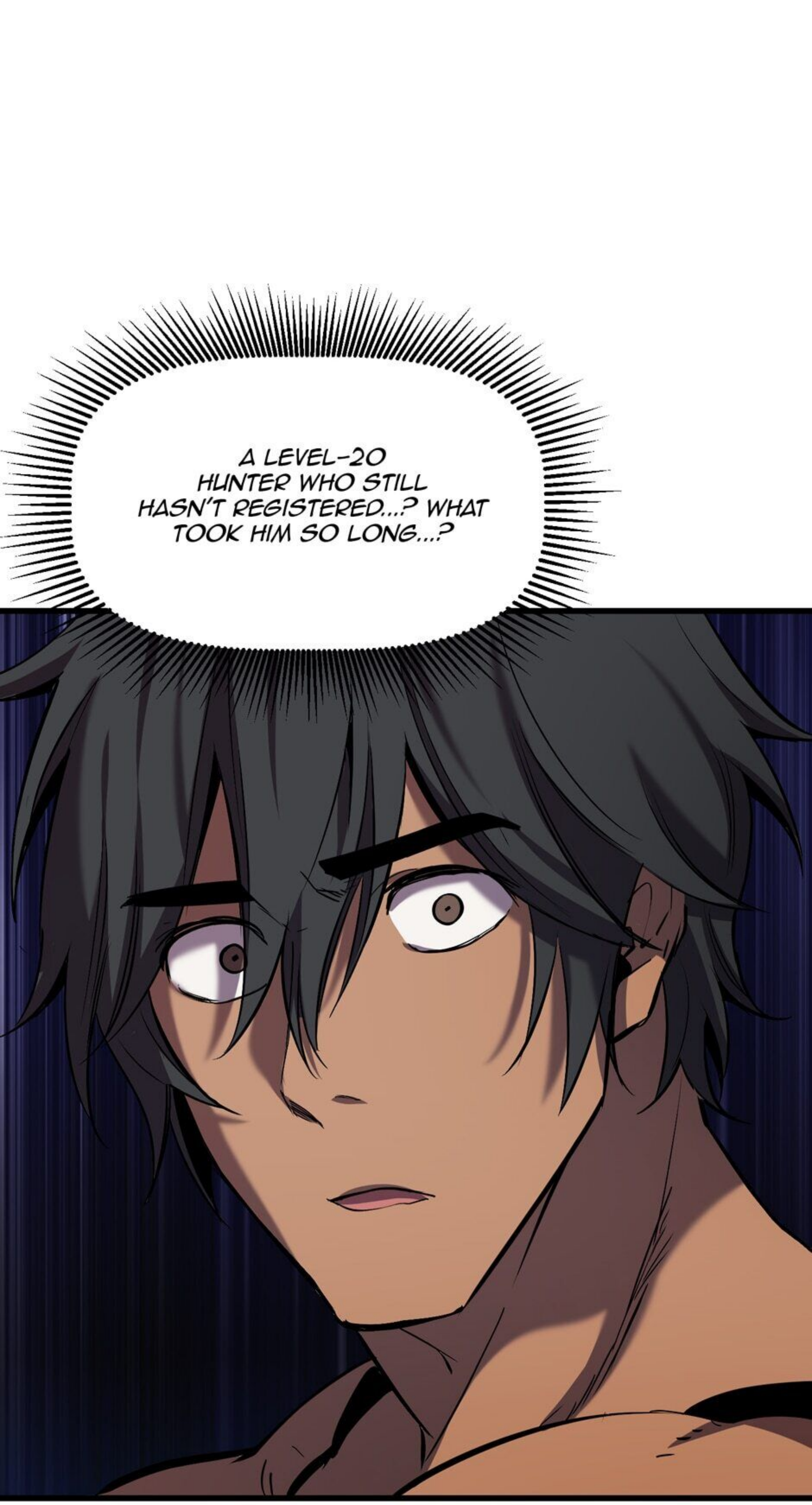
OH, NO...
I OWE THE
VALTARAN WARRIOR
FROM MY BROTHER'S
INCIDENT LAST TIME.
I'LL GET IT.

AH...! BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO RECOVER YOUR CLOTHES OR BURN HIM ALIVE FOR YOU.
'BURN HIM ALIVE'?!
YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK ALIVE, SO I WAS ABLE TO GET A LOT MORE MONEY OUT OF HIM.
SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE, WOULD


IS THAT RIGHT? THEN IF YOU CAN, PLEASE.
YOU LIKE TO RENEW YOUR GUILD CARD TOO? IT'S FREE FOR THOSE WHO COOPERATE WITH THE CHURCH~
WELCOME~ WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH?

I WAS TOLD THAT I SHOULD COME HERE IF I WANT TO BE A HUNTER.
IS HE FROM SOME COUNTRYSIDE? WELL, I FELT AWKWARD TOO WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE...
OH, ARE YOU HERE TO REGISTER AS A HUNTER?


THAT'S RIGHT!
BUT ALL OF HIS WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT LOOK SO NEW, AS IF HE JUST BOUGHT THEM.
Species: Human
Lvl: 20


A LEVEL-20 HUNTER WHO STILL HASN'T REGISTERED...? WHAT TOOK HIM SO LONG...?

COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME AND WHERE YOU'RE FROM?

OH, WHERE ARE MY MANNERS?

I'M
LUSHIN CHANG
FROM SHANGHAI.
I'M GONNA
BE A WARRIOR!

RED DOG
CULTURE HOUSE

LATNA
SAGA
SURVIVAL OF A SWORD KING